

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

To: Ken Bressett

August 20, 1999

From: Eric P. Newman

I need your input to comment on my thinking as to the spelling of MASATHVSETS on the willow, oak and pine tree coinage. This came up at the ANA class this summer. The problem is in two parts.

First Part:

There is no other spelling of Massachusetts I can find where the first S is not doubled and the last T is not doubled. Even the enabling order is clear for double letters. I therefore conclude that the die maker eliminated the doubling to gain space and avoid crowding the legend. The sound would be the same. He just needed room. This was often done on European coinage. Do you agree as to the reason. If that is true, one asks why it went on so long without complaint. If the date 1652 continued to be used for years to cover up the production date it is entirely reasonable to believe that a misspelling would be continued for the same reason. A correction would show later striking. What think ye?

Second Part:

The use of the first T instead of a C on the coins is so far as I can determine a die cutter's error which was continued as a cover up. The June 11, 1652 order spells the name properly in the script and as reproduced and printed in Crosby. In the word "Oath" in the second line the "th" is written as of the period and that is the same form in which those letters are written in "Massachusetts". However the height of the stroke of the "t" in "Oath" is greater than the same letter in "Massachusetts". Could it have been misread or miscopied by or for the Hull mint. Look at the word "according" in the second to last line and you can see how similar the intended "c" in "Massachusetts" is to each "c" in "according". I think the "c" was read as "t" by mistake because it was poorly written. The apparent error was never changed as part of their possible cover up even though quite obvious for many many years. What do you think?

I want to write this up. I do not know if this has ever been commented upon.

P.S. I know that there is a later actual mistake in having a fourth S in the name. If they didn't even correct the many mirrored images of "N" in both oak and pine tree varieties, then there must have been a deliberate attempt to keep the cover up going. Were they that stupid never to correct an obvious error in cutting later dies?

P.P.S. You will note that the 1650 dated pine tree fakes straddle the spelling issue. One has CH and one has TH in the name. One has S four times and one has S three times in the legend. So you see someone else was confused by the spelling about 140 years ago. Does that mean the spelling was to fool forgers and counterfeiters. P.P.P.S. I decided to write to you just for the Hull of it.

To John M. Kleeberg

9/19/99

From Eric P. Newman

I need your sharp eyes and literacy to read the words on a drawing in a Massachusetts record reproduced opposite p. 41 of Crosby's the Early Coins of America.

In the drawing on the left side I cannot decipher the written portion after "New England". The drawing is referred to on p. 44 lines 10 and 20. The text is referred to as "in the yeere of our lord" and "the date of the yeare", respectively on lines 17 and 20. Help.

American Numismatic Society
Broadway and 155th Street
New York, NY 10032

Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

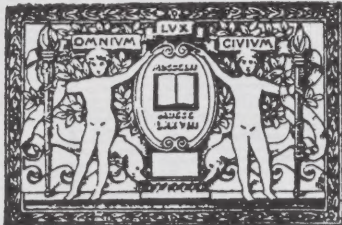
Dear Eric P. Newman,

The matter is a bit complex, because the plate in Crosby includes five pieces of information, which are quoted on pages 41 line 19 and 21 ff., 43 line 11, and 73 line 16. The reference to the drawings of the coins is not on page 44 - that is a different drawing - but on page 43, line 21.

I read the coin drawing on the left of the plate facing page 41 as:

New England Massachusetts in

Best regards,
John M. Kleeberg-



Boston Public Library

Boston, Massachusetts 02117

P.O. Box 286

8 October 1999

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis MO 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

I have enclosed a both a photocopy and enlargement of the document "A Warning From the Spirit of the Lord..." written by Christopher Holden that you requested from the Chamberlain Collection. Please note these copies are for research purposes only. Should you wish to reproduce the document, please contact me for permission.

Your research sounds fascinating. I look forward to reading the final article.

Sincerely yours,

Susan Glover Godlewski
Curator of Rare Books

Enc.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

November 17, 1999

A plea to a few numismatists.

I enclose a rough draft of an article I just wrote relating to the misspelling of MASATHVSETS on the 1652 dated Massachusetts coinage.

Please be nice enough to read it and suggest corrections, additions, eliminations, clarifications, amendments, trashing, or wise cracks.

Did I miss something important? Did anyone else ever write about this?

Above all please correct my spelling.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

November 17, 1999

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Did I miss something important? Did anyone else ever write about this?

Above all please correct my spelling.

✓ ① Bressett
✓ ② Kleeberg
✓ ③ Ringo
✓ ④ Mass Best Ann Bentley
✓ ⑤ Mossman
✓ ⑥ Gaspar
✓ ⑦ Boston Publishing
✓ ⑧ Bowers
✓ ⑨ Don Perlman
Fields
9 total

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Ms. Anne C. Bentley
Massachusetts Historical Society
1154 Boylston St.
Boston, MA 02215-3695

November 17, 1999

Dear Anne:

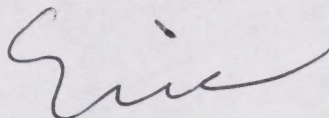
I have just written and enclose a rough draft of an article on the spelling of MASATHVSETS on the coinage of 1652 of which you have lovely examples.

I spoke to you about it recently and hope you will read it and suggest corrections, additions, clarifications, etc.

You will note I use the paper money you are familiar with and have written about.

I will be very grateful for your cooperation as it is on a subject which should be very Massachusetts oriented.

My best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eric".

Eric P. Newman

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Ms. Susan Glover Godlewski
Curator of Rare Books
Boston Public Library
Boston, MA 02117

November 17, 1999

Dear Ms. Godlewski:

I thank you for your prompt cooperation after I contacted you. I am enclosing my current incomplete draft of my article involving the spelling of MASATHVSETS on coinage which I mentioned to you.

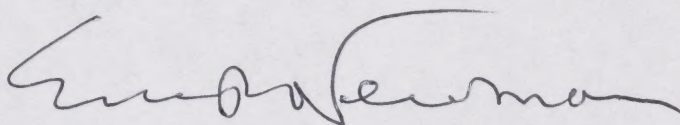
Please be kind enough to read it and make any corrections, suggestions, clarifications, or amendments you care to. I will be grateful.

Have you ever heard of this unusual spelling elsewhere? Your experience with the spelling of the name of your home state ought to prove whether I missed important evidence or not.

I also request permission to use the material you sent. I have not selected where I will submit this but probably it will be to the American Numismatic Society, but I have an open mind. I do not accept compensation for writing. Should I consider the American Antiquarian Society of which I am a member or some other Massachusetts related organization? I might have a publication in two places simultaneously.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Eric P. Newman", with a stylized, flowing script.

Eric P. Newman



BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES, INC.

Your friends in the rare coin business

November 23, 1999

VIA FAX: ~~1-314-727-0828~~

unable to fax

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric:

Thank you for sending me the draft of your very interesting article. I have nothing to add to what you have done—although I wish I could say something brilliant.

Concerning spelling and punctuation, there is an extraneous apostrophe in the seventh line on page five; you may want to consider adding a comma before the word “but” as on the bottom of page six, three lines up; and you may want to use a comma before “and” in a sequence—the latter of course being a matter of style preference.

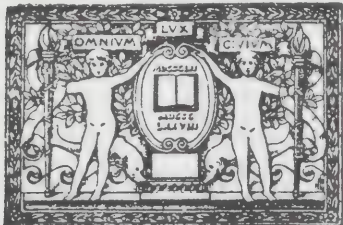
I suppose you could look in the Oxford English Dictionary to see if there are any old English words in which the letter c was substituted for t or vice versa. Also, in certain Swiss-German names there are some times mixing up of Ts and Cs in phonetics—such as the surname “Tscharner” being simply pronounced as an S—and other examples.

All the best from here. I hope you and your family have a nice Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

Q. David Bowers

QDB/rsm



Boston Public Library

Boston, Massachusetts 02117

P.O. Box 286

1 December 1999

Ms. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis MO 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thank you for sharing a draft of your paper on the spelling of MASATHUSETS. Even in its incomplete form, I found it to be interesting. I assume that you will include comprehensive footnotes or endnotes in the final version.

In addition to considering the American Numismatic Society as a publishing venue, I would also suggest you investigate both the Massachusetts Historical Society and the American Numismatic Association. I have enclosed information from their web pages you for information. I suspect that the Massachusetts Historical Society might be your best bet. Unfortunately, the Boston Public Library no longer publishes More Books; that would be another alternative.

We are unable to give you permission to publish until you have a definite publisher, date, etc. When you have such a commitment, please resubmit your request with all of the specifics.

Sincerely yours,

Susan Glover Godlewski
Curator of Rare Books

Philip L. Mossman, M.D.
60 Montgomery Street
Bangor, Maine 04401-3841
December 5, 1999

Dear Eric,

Thank you so much for sending your thought provoking manuscript. Since you were to be vacationing in Laos, I wasn't too swift in my reply. I hope you had an interesting time. I'm sure that as soon as you return home, all the news about the latest happenings at the ANS will be waiting for you at your doorstep. I certainly hope these issues can be amicable resolved.

I read, and re-read, your article and have some comments. As the paper stands, I would suggest only two changes - both in the first paragraph. For clarity, I would change "This spelling seems otherwise unknown." to "This unusual spelling seems unique to Massachusetts silver legends and I can find no instance of other use in literary material or official documents." In the next sentence, I would substitute "Some varieties ..." for "Such varieties..." Also when writing of single letters, one style is to punctuate them as /s/ or /h/.

Now for a confession - this odd orthography, MASATHVSETS, never dawned on me! I just thought it was an archaic style. Your paper stimulated me to read *Bradford's History of Plimouth Plantation* to see what he used. I found 5 variations of the word he used on 26 occasions.

MASSACHUSETS -14
MASSACHUSSETS - 5
MASSACHUSETTS - 5
MASSACHUSSET - 1
MASSACHUSET - 1

Even though Bradford wrote from Plimouth and not Puritan Boston - it is at least an indication of the contemporary style. In no instance was there a single /S/ in the beginning of the word, and never did the /T/ appear. The /V/ is no problem since that is formal style.

Now - a brilliant [or maybe not so brilliant] idea occurred to me that may explain the whole thing. Let's say that in 1652, an unsophisticated engraver goofed on the first Willow Tree dies and wrote MASATHVSETS. Since their scheme was to retain the date, 1652, and, thereby, obscure the fact of a continuous coinage, maybe they retained their original blundered legend for the same reason. Except for the method of striking, there were no other specific improvements with Mass silver over the years save for the introduction of smaller planchets. Any collateral improvements that did occur, were secondary to improved manufacturing technology. Now the weakness with this theory is


that they did alter - or rather improve - the tree design with time. There is also the theory that 1652 is the date of enabling legislation - but the greatest strength supporting this theory is, in my opinion, the lack of any other possible reason. Retaining the misspelled MASATHVSETS may just have been another way to indicate that nothing was changing with the coinage with the rationale that consistency of legends and date were more indicative of constancy than the variety of tree designs in the device. The other variations and letter reversals in the legends may just have been unintentional blunders or, as you point out, a technique to fit as much as possible in the legends. Well - anyway - it is an idea for you to consider.

Encouraged by your paper, I just read Clarke's book, *John Hull, A Builder of the Bay Colony*, where the suggestion is forwarded that Sanderson was a far more skilled and accomplished silversmith than Hull who was more of a businessman, merchant, entrepreneur.

I've never seen any discussion of the MASATHVSETS legend and am so glad you are pursuing it. At least, it may stimulate some discussion. Keep me posted on your progress.

Best regards and wishes for a Happy Holiday Season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Phil".



KENNETH BRESSETT
POST OFFICE BOX 60145
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80960

December 19, 1999

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric,

Welcome home! I hope that you had a great trip. While you were gone I read through your work on the spelling of Massachusetts. It is very well done and very interesting.

Please do publish it even if it does not have any positive conclusion. It is hard to find anything wrong with your logical conclusions. For what it is worth, I completely agree with you.

The thought that Hull would not change the spelling for the same reasons that I believe he kept the date 1652 is a good argument.

There is only one reference that you did not seem to cover, and I think it is important. Did you check Hull's diary to see how he spelled Massachusetts there? I do not have a copy so I could not research it. I did, however, look in Clarke's book on Hull. He has an interesting passage...I am inclosing a copy of it.

The only error that I found was indeed a spelling error. On page 4 you misspelled "Massachussetts"!

The ANS has been acting up while you were gone. Lots of activity on the Internet (where most of the information to members is not posted) I have some reservations about funding a chair for only the Islamic department and would like to speak to you about that. I understand that three of the Council members have now resigned.

KENNETH BRESSETT + NUMISMATIC RESEARCH CENTER + FAX (719) 579-8012 + TEL (719) 579-8217

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Mrs. Caroline Loughlin
66 Buckskin Drive
Weston, MA 02493

December 21, 1999

Dear Caroline:

You are in Boston and I have a small Boston problem. You like intriguing research as much as I do. I am preparing an article on the spelling of MASATHVSETS on the 1652 dated coinage and this unusually strange spelling has been noticed by many, but never to my knowledge commented upon as to why. It involves the first coinage in the American colonies, popularly known as the Pine Tree shillings. I wrote a monograph on the subject about 1957, following studies published by Sylvester Crosby in 1875 and by Sidney Noe about 1950. My current article is substantially complete and is enclosed in rough form.

This is a request which needs your input. If you turn me down I won't wish that you were in Macau. You may even enjoy the important research and you will be given full credit for doing so. If you had not tentatively left St. Louis I would not have a reason to ask you. So here goes:

The Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England were published 150 years ago in typeset form from the original manuscript documents. The original manuscript is in the Massachusetts Archives which is not downtown but near the Kennedy Center. A microfilm of the manuscript is there. I am told it is complex to see the microfilm or obtain a copy or print from it. Why it is difficult I do not know. I would like to obtain a copy of a few specific portions of the manuscript where MASATUSETTS is used there three times on page 164 of the printed text (p. 229 of the manuscript text) being under the date of 14 May 1649 and a copy of MATATUSETTS on page 196 of the printed text (p. 226 of the manuscript text) under the date of 23 May 1650. If the first T of the 1649 entry is an improper transcription or unreadable writing it proves my point. The same is true of the second entry but that is obviously an error in copying the long S as a T. It would be good to have proof of that also as well as the second T.

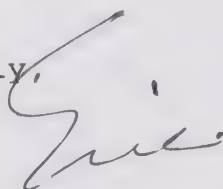
On June 7, 1650, page 198 of the printed text you will note that MASSACHUSETS is used four times and this is a standard alternate.

If you have any questions I am here to answer them. Telephone 314-727-0850. Fax 314-727-0820.

You will be classified as expert doll if you can help me. I am all butterflies waiting for your reply.

Best to you and Phil for the holidays. We miss you.

Sincerely,



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Geoffrey Stevens
2 Phillips Drive
Newburyport, MA 01950

December 23, 1999

In your notice in the Winter 1999 C-4 Newsletter you ask for information on new thoughts on Massachusetts silver coinage.

I should be miffed that you included Durst in your "basics" and left me out, but that just caused a smile.

I have virtually completed an extensive article on the spelling of MASATHVSETS and it is under peer review now. If you have any information on the spelling problem I would appreciate hearing from you.

If you have any questions as to dies, contemporary counterfeits, etc. I will try to help you.

Good luck on your project.

Happy New Year,

Eric P. Newman

Caroline K. Loughlin
66 Buckskin Drive
Weston, Massachusetts 02493
CKLoughlin@aol.com

Telephone
(781) 899-4365

Fax
(781) 899-6931

27 December 1999

Massachusetts Archives
220 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston MA 02125

Re: copies

Enclosed is a check for \$2 to cover copies of the following pages from *The Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England*:

In the manuscript text: pages 229 (14 May 1649) and page 226 (23 May 1650).
In the printed text: page 164 and page 196 (same dates as above).

The primary research interest is in the spelling of Massachusetts/Masatusetts/Matatusets. If it is impossible to copy the entire page clearly, please concentrate on these words.

Please send the copies to:
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis MO 63105.

I understand that this will take about 6 to 8 weeks, but we would appreciate getting the copies as soon as possible.

Thank you very much for your help.

Sincerely,

Carole K. Loughlin

Cc: Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis MO 63105

Sounds interesting.
Let us know
how it comes out!

C

Geoffrey P. Stevens
2 Phillips Dr.
Newburyport, Ma. 01950
January 3, 2000

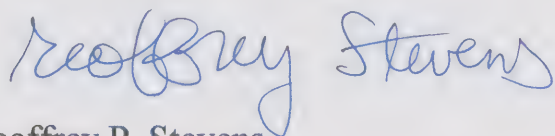
Eric Newman,

Thank you very much for responding to my ad in the C-4 journal. I hope you were not really offended that I did not include your name specifically when I listed a few therein. I really only listed Durst due to the fact that I have that book. You should know that when I mention Sidney Noes' Mass silver book I am referring to the Quarterman edition, and I consider you an accomplished contributor to that. I am well aware of your many successes as a numismatic author. I want you to know that the information you have supplemented Noes' book with is greatly appreciated by myself.

The subject of Massachusetts bay colony silver is one which is hard to contribute to as there is only so much information available and it has seemingly all been said. I think that of all people however, you know about the value of research and hard work. I am currently following some leads here in the Boston area and I am hoping to at some point contribute something myself. I recently toured the Saugus Iron Works and have made some connections within. I do not believe that Joseph Jenks was involved with any die engraving, although it is very likely that the blank dies were created at his foundary.

I am looking forward to reading your recent work on the spelling of "Masathvsets". Please feel free to write back as I would always appreciate any of your comments. I will write to you again in the future to let you know of any progress. I eventually will send material to C-4, hopefully for inclusion in the journal.

Your numismatist friend,



Geoffrey P. Stevens

1/9/2000

Caroline K. Houghlin

A Friend in need is a friend indeed

Dear Caroline:

Your prompt cooperation on the Massachusetts spelling matter was wonderful. Does your \$2 advance bear interest from the date of issue or when the results are received?

I have gathered enough new data to rewrite the entire paper which I will do while you are in New Zealand looking for extinct birds.

Evelyn is thrilled beyond measure over your continued generosity. We both are sorry we could not have dinner with you and Phil in St Louis at this time.

Thrive.

Eric



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Archives Division

January 12, 2000

Caroline K. Loughlin
66 Buckskin Dr.
Weston, MA 02493

Dear Madam:

I am writing in response to your letter we received the 28th of December requesting copies from the *Records of the Massachusetts Bay*. Enclosed you will find the copies of the pages you requested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "AJJ", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jennifer Jacobsen
Reference Archivist

Caroline K. Loughlin
66 Buckskin Drive
Weston, Massachusetts 02493
CKLoughlin@aol.com

Telephone
(781) 899-4365

Fax
(781) 899-6931

22 January 2000

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis MO 63105

Dear Eric,

I am enclosing everything I received from the Massachusetts Archives. I hope you are able to read it. If not, you might be able to have someone scan it and then computer-enhance it. There is a guy at the UMSL Archives who I know does that kind of thing. His name is Zelli. I believe his last name is Fischetti. Or maybe you know someone or John Hoover does. Ah, the joys of working with old documents.

516-5129

Let me know if I can do anything else. I know these people have e-mail. And I am paying the additional \$7. I will apply the \$9 against my tab with you and Evelyn for meals we have eaten at your expense, cars you have lent us, etc.

Sincerely,

Carli

Eric,

*Thanks for the bank notes from Vietnam + Laos.
A nice addition to my collection.*

*You may be on to something. I often wondered
what my family did before it got into the
clothing business. Maybe they clipped coins!
Not much profit in it today.*

Phil



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Archives Division

Caroline K. Loughlin
66 Buckskin Drive
Weston, MA 02493

Dear Ms. Loughlin,

Enclosed are the photostat copies that you requested. They are copied from the original transcripts of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, but the originals were written on both sides of the paper, hence the bleeding through of ink. I understand that you have the photocopies of the printed text and hopefully this will aid you in finding the differentiation of spellings that you are looking for. Also enclosed is the bill for the cost of the photostat copies, which is \$7.00. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Heather O'Kane

Heather O'Kane

Jan. 29, 2000

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

To: Phil Mossman

February 29, 2000

From: Eric P. Newman

Re: Mass. Spelling

Thank you for the helpfulness on the Massachusetts silver coinage problem. The Clarke write up was necessary to check out but it has nothing new and is a rehash in my opinion.

As to the Hutchinson Papers quotation I am pleased that Louis Jordan (I did not know of his C.N.L. position) found the spelling Mattachusets in the 1865 typeset publication. This further confirms the misreading by the typesetter of the double long s as tt which I have often found elsewhere. The single t in the last syllable is commonly used in place of tt during the 18th century. Please thank him for me.

AMERICAN · ANTIQUARIAN · SOCIETY

March 22, 2000

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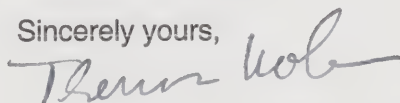
Eric Newman
6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

I searched our catalogs after speaking with you on the telephone, and found a couple of items relating to the spelling "Masathusets" on early coinage. I am enclosing photocopies, and hope this material will be of help to you.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas Knoles
Director of Reference Services
and Curator of Manuscripts

tknoles@mwa.org



APPENDIX.

Appendix A, p. 6.

THE NAME OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Mr. HALE called the attention of the Society to the complete discrepancy between the two authorities generally quoted for the meaning of the word "Massachusetts." These are

I. Roger Williams's deposition, made when he was an old man. In this paper, most of which relates to a subject wholly different, occurs this parenthesis: "I had learned that the Massachusetts was called so from the Blue Hills, a little island thereabout; and Canonicus' father and ancestors living in those parts transferred and brought their authority and name into those northern parts." This deposition is in Rhode Island Colonial papers, I., 25; R. I. Hist. Coll., IV., 208.

II. Josiah Cotton, in his vocabulary of the Massachusetts Indians, gives the following definition:

"*Massachusett*, a hill in the form of an arrow's-head."

There is no question that the seat of the Massachusetts Indians was at the head of Massachusetts Bay, near the Neponset River. The name is in Smith's "Description" of his observations in 1614, where he speaks of "Massachusetts Mount," "Massachusetts River," and "the Massachusetts and Massachusetts people." "Then the countrie of the Massachusetts, which is the Paradise of all those parts." He has also the spellings "Massachewset," and "the high mountainie of Massachusit."

The passage in Roger Williams is almost unintelligible. Mr. Young supposed that by "an island thereabout," Williams meant in Narragansett Bay; a construction which the context hardly warrants. It may be doubted whether Williams did not throw in the whole passage as a parenthesis, and mean by "thereabouts" an island in the Massachusetts country. For Hutchinson's statement is distinct, that the Massachusetts sachem "had his principal seat upon a small hill or rising upland, in the midst of a body of salt-marsh in the township of Dorchester, near to a place called Squantum, and it is known by the name of Massachusetts hill, or Mount Massachusetts to this day," (1764.) The spot thus designated, "a little island" in the marsh is still (1867) perfectly well known. The Blue Hills in Milton and Quincy, the Massachusetts (or Chevit) hills of Smith, are in the immediate vicinity. I observe, however the name "Maskachusie" in Rhode Island, given to a point at the mouth of Hunt's river on Lockwood's map.*

The passage in Judge Cotton's vocabulary is wholly isolated. He gives no explanation of its roots. The word *matta*, Mr. Trumbull tells me, in Eliot's Bible, invariably signifies *not*, when standing by itself. *Wadchu* is the word for hill.

There is nothing to show that Massachusetts ever meant *Blue Hills*. All that any one has intended to say, is the undoubted fact, that the hills now known as the "Blue Hills" were known to the early settlers as the "Massachusetts Hills," or Massachusetts Mountains," being, indeed, close to the "Massachusetts hill," on a little island near Squantum, which was the seat of the sachem of the Massachusetts Indians.

The Indian word for *Blue* was, according to Cotton, *heshai*.

Mr. Hale then asked if any member of the Society could give any other explanation of the difference between Wil-

* Rhode Island Historical Collections, vol. iii., 303.

AAS PROCEEDINGS
OCT. 1867

iams's and Cotton's statement. It was difficult to suppose that if Cotton's statement were correct, no writer should have noticed it before his time, 1714-1756.

To Mr. Hale's question, the unanimous reply of the members present was that the subject should be referred to our associate, Mr. J. Hammond Trumbull, of Hartford, as the only competent authority. Mr. Trumbull, in answer to a letter from the Committee, has favored us at once with the following reply. He regards the spelling *Matta-chusett* as having no claim as representing the Indian word.

Mr. Trumbull expresses the wish that he had more light on the subject, and more leisure to give shape to his ideas. But the Committee publish his letter with pleasure, believing that it will be regarded as a very intelligible and satisfactory determination of the subject.

LETTER FROM J. HAMMOND TRUMBULL, ON THE NAME
MASSACHUSETTS.

HARTFORD, Nov. 2, 1867.

DEAR MR. HALE:

* * * * Smith, in his "Description of N. England," names "*Massachuset*" and "*Massachewset*;" "the high mountain of *Massachusit*;" and the inhabitants thereabouts whom he calls "*the Massachusets*." (3 M. H. C., vi., 108, 119, 120.) In the list of names prefixed to his book, he gives "*Massachusets Mount*" and "*Massachusets River*," i. e., the mount and the river of *Massachuset*, just as he gives "*Aucociscos Mount*," for "*the mountain of Aucocisco*;" the final *s* being merely a sign of the possessive.

In Winslow's "*Good Newes from New England*," he says, "*the people of that place*" were called "*the Massachusets or Massachuseucks*." Roger Williams wrote the "name peculiar to the nation," "*Massachuseuck*." (Introd. to his 'Key.') In Mourt's "*Relation*," we find mention (by

Winslow?) of "the *Massachuset* Bay," "*Massachusets* Queene;" and of "the *Massachusets*," as a name of the tribe. (Dexter's Mourt, 124, 126.) *

Gorges (Briefe Narration, ch. 23,) names the bay "of the *Majechewsett*," (if the *j* be not a printer's error for *f*;) and "of *Massechewsett*." In the patent to his son Robert, as printed in the "Briefe Narration," the land is called "*Messachusiac*," on the "bay called *Messachuset*," &c., [which names appear in Sainsbury's abstract of this patent (in Calendar of St. Papers, Col. Series 1. 35,) as "*Messachustack*" and *Messachusets*."] In his Second Book, ch. 7, Gorges calls the natives, "the *Massachisans*."

Wood's "Nomenclator" (appended to "N. E. Prospect") gives "*Massachusets*." So, among names of the Indians, by countries, he puts "*Narragansets*," "*Nipnets*," "*Connectacuts*," &c.

On the title page of the Psalter printed at Boston in 1709, we find the adjective "*Massachusee*,"—corresponding to the English form "*Massachuset*" [not *-setts*,] on the opposite page.

With these authorities, all concurrent,—and in the absence of any evidence that the name of *Mattachusets* was ever applied to the territory or to the Indians who occupied it, before 1629,—we are warranted in believing that *Massa*-more nearly than *Matta*-chusetts represents the original name. It is also evident that the final *s* does not belong to the original name, but was added to form an Anglicised plural, or as a sign of the possessive case.

How then came "*Mattachusets*" into the Records, and on the colony seal?

In this way, I think. The Patent of 1628-9 recites the bounds of the Plymouth Council's grant to Sir Henry Roswell and others, naming "a certayne bay there comonlie called *Massachusetts*, alias *Mattachusetts*, alias *Massatusetts*

* In Dermer's letter, quoted in Bradford, June 30, 1620, we have the spelling *Massachusets*. E. E. II.

bay." Whence these aliases came it is not easy now to ascertain; the carelessness of one clerk, or the superabundant caution of another, or the illegibility of the minutes from which the Council's grant was drafted or the Patent of 1629 engrossed,—may well enough account for their introduction. The Patent confirmed the bounds of the earlier grant, aliases and all; but it gave to the patentees corporate existence by the name of "the Governor and Company of the *Mattachusetts Bay* in New England,"—without the liberty of an alias. Whatever might be the name of their *territory*, the Governor and Company of *Massachusetts* could claim no "jurisdiction by patent," there or elsewhere.

So the seal, made shortly after the issue of the Patent, bore, necessarily, this corporate name,—"*Gub: et Societ: de Massachusetts Bay in Nova Anglia.*" The government to be established in New England was "to bee entytuled by the name of the Gove^rno^r & Councell of London's Plantacon in the *Mattachusetts Bay*," &c. [I quote from the Records as printed in the *Archæologia Americana*, III., 38. Comp. the Instructions to Endicott, Id. 81, and the oaths prescribed for the Governor and Company in England, and for the Governor and Council in New England, in *Mass. Rec.*, I. 349–352.]

The Company's Records sometimes (perhaps) name "*Massachusetts Bay*" (*Mass. Rec.* I., 29, 38, 43,) but are careful to write of the *Company* "of the *Mattachusetts Bay*,"—as in the record of the Courts of April 30, and July 28, 1629. So, on Winthrop's arrival, he "went up to *Mattachusetts* to find out a place for sitting down," (*Jour.* I., 27); but it was not very long before he learned to write *Massachusetts*. (*Ibid.* I., 458.)

We may trace in the records, for a time, the observance of the distinction between the real name of the *territory* and the *legal* name of the *corporation*. Compare "land about *Massachusetts*," (*Mass. Rec.*, I., 95,) and *informal* mention of "the Governor of the English colony in the

Massachusetts," (Id. 151,)—with the oath, in Secretary Bradstreet's writing, of a freeman "of the Mattachusetts," &c., (Id. 353,) and the formal description, in a commission granted in 1636, of "our commonwealth and body of the *Mattachusetts* in America." (Id. 170.)

Thomas Lechford, for nearly a year after his arrival in New England, wrote "Massachusetts," (or "-ets."). His attention was perhaps called to this inaccuracy when drawing a certificate, in August, 1639, to be signed by Governor Winthrop, and attested by the *colony seal*. Herein he was careful to write "Mattachusetts Bay in Nova Anglia;" and subsequently adhered to that form in all legal instruments drawn by him. In "Plaine Dealing," (p. 23,) he italicises the corporate "name of the *Governour* [&c.] of the *Societie of the Mattachusetts Bay in New England*."

This distinction between the *legal* and the *popular* name was gradually lost sight of, or came to be regarded as of little importance; and "Massachusetts," even in formal records, was substituted for the name given by patent.

As to the name which appears on the *coinage*:—The penultimate *t* may have been introduced by a die cutter, who mistook the old form *ch* *th* in the copy from which he worked, for *th* *th*. You know how easily such a mistake might be made when reading an unfamiliar word, in old manuscript. [I enclose a tracing from Lechford's MS., which I have just now made. His *ch* might nearly as well stand for *th*.] It was in this way, I think, that "*Massathu-lets* Bay came to be printed (uniformly) in "New England's Plantation." Why the error in the die should not have been *corrected*, I cannot say; no more than I can tell why the *date* was suffered to remain unchanged for so many years.

Possibly, there was a slip of the pen in the *copy* sent to the die cutter. Such slips are made now and then by the most accomplished clerks.

And now, as to the *signification* of the name. Hereupon, I am not prepared to speak positively, and therefore would have preferred to say nothing, until I should receive more light. But in reply to your query, I very willingly give you as much as I know, and add what I *guess*. There is no doubt, I think, about "the *achu* part." *Adchu* (as Eliot wrote it,) was the generic name for "hill" or "mountain." In Eliot's version it occurs frequently, with the pronominal prefix of the third person, *Wadchu*, (=00adchu:) in the plural, *wadchuash*, (as in Is. 40 : 12, for "mountains" and "hills.") With the locative suffix, (*wadchu-ut*,) it signified at, in, into, or on, the mountain; see Gen. 31 : 54; Exod. 19 : 12, and 24 : 18; Is. 27 : 13. ["*Olivese wadchu*," (Zech. 14 : 4,)=" *Wadchu Olives*" (Luke 19 : 29,) for "the Mount of Olives."] *Mas-* represents, I believe, the adjective *missi*, *muksi*, or as Eliot more frequently (but not always) wrote it, *mishe*,—"great." The first vowel was obscure, or rather, there was between the *m* and *s* only a *sh'wa*, and *m'si* is perhaps a better spelling. The final vowel is necessarily lost in composition. *M's-adchu* (Eliot has *mishadchu*, as in Luke 3 : 5, and Rev. 8 : 8,) "a great mountain." [In Luke 3 : 5, we have *mishadchu kah wadchu*, "mountain and hill."] At, or in, the great mountain, would be expressed by *m's-adchu-ut*, [not *-set*:] but the *adjective* formed from *m'sadchu*, or its plural, *m'sadchuash*, might be *m'sadchuse*, (or as in the before-mentioned title of the Indian Psalter, *Massachusee*.) So, *Massachuse-ohke*, (= *Messachusick* of Gorges, ut supra; *Messatssek*, of Râle's Dictionary, s. v. 'Noms,') for "the great-hill country;" and *Massachusee-og* (= *Massachusëuck*, of R. Williams and Winslow; "the *Massachusets*" of Smith and Mourt's Relation; "*Massachisans*" of Gorges,) for "the great hill people." (Par parenthèse,—that name was earned on the 17th of June, 1775, if never before; and may be held by a new tenure, when the Hoosac Tunnel is bored.)

The "two wholly diverse explanations" to which you al-

lude as given in the books, I understand to be the statement of Roger Williams, and a note at the end of Cotton's Vocabulary. Williams was informed "that the Massachusetts was called so from the Blew Hills;" Cotton, that "Massachusetts" was "an hill in the form of an arrow's head." Neither professed to *translate* the name. From one, we learn that the "great hills" was one of those sometime called "Blue Hills;" from the other, its shape. I should say, then, that "Massachusetts" was, originally, an anglicized plural of a corrupt form (*Massachuset*), in which he who first used it blended, through ignorance of the language, the description of the place (*m'sadchu-ut*), "at the great hill" (or "hills,") with the tribal name of the Indians who lived thereabouts, *M'sadchuseück*, "great-hill people."

It may be, however, and in other Algonkin dialects I find something to give probability to the supposition,—that the termination, or suffix, *-set*, in such names as Massachu-set, Wachu-set, Narragan-set, Nepon-set, and the like, had the signification of "towards," "near to," or "in the vicinity of,"—in distinction from the simple locative, *ut*, *et*, or *it*, signifying "in," "on," "to," or "at." But I find no trace of such an affix in the writings of Eliot, Williams, or Râle. *

I am, Dear Sir, very truly yours,

J. HAMMOND TRUMBULL.

Appendix B, p. 41.

In the Anthropological Review of April, 1857, (the organ of the Anthropological Society of London,) is a synopsis of a proposed publication by Mr. Harcourt Beatty, of Glasgow, entitled "*Ante-Diluvian Politics (Adamite and Pre-Adamite), or a Moral Cosmogony the True Theme of Genesis I. to XI.*"

This, like many other modern theories, is apparently a revival of an ancient doctrine. In assuming that the Scrip-

considerable, as a glance at the enlargements will show, and there is little consistency.

The inscription admirably fulfills its function of giving the necessary facts with regard to the coinage. The issuing authority is given the prominence to which it is entitled; the date is placed significantly and the denomination clearly indicated. One might justify the addition of IN NEW ENGLAND to MASATHUSETS because the latter appears on one side and NEW ENGLAND on the reverse. Brief thought will show how preferable this is to "Massachusetts Bay Colony" or any other alternative which might have been considered by John Hull at the time. Any addition to MASATHUSETS on the obverse must needs have been a short word if the inscription was to be kept in letters of the size used. The omission of NEW ENGLAND from the reverse and the amplification of AN DOM to ANNO DOMINI would have been a poor alternative, since it would have exalted these relatively unimportant words to a prominence equalling that of MASATHUSETS on the obverse.

The reconstructions show that the size of the letters, too, would call for praise if the element of double striking were absent. Their proportions are excellent and their scale in respect to the whole design seems very close to the best that could have been selected.

One service which the reconstructions reproduced in this monograph has rendered is the demonstration that the spelling MASATHUSETS on the Willow

Tree coins is uniform with that on the Oak and Pine Tree issues and that none of the strange misspellings mistakenly attributed to Hull really exist. Hull's spelling is unchanged throughout the entire coinage with a single exception where the H is dropped—something almost certainly due to inadvertence. Variation in the spelling of ordinary names is common in the early records, and even in documents and letters in the handwriting of men who are unquestionably of sound learning, we find unbelievable vagaries. It is not surprising, therefore, that there seems to have been no attempt to discover whence came the spelling used on the coins. The substitution of T for the customary C in the third syllable would have interesting connotations of a linguistic nature if it could be established that the TH spelling had been common and that it gave way to the form with which we are more familiar. An appeal to a distinguished authority in the American Antiquarian Society confirmed the reasonable deduction that this spelling is used throughout the diaries of John Hull, which, as has been mentioned, are preserved in Worcester, and which are in Hull's handwriting. On the colonial seal, the spelling is MATTACHUSETTS. In the charter of the Massachusetts Bay Company we find the spelling used on the coins along with three other forms. A careful search in the records of the Governor and Company and similar sources might provide data which would explain this spelling. It is a field of investigation which offers a fair reward but it re-

quires a more complete and dependable knowledge of the period than is possessed by the writer. It seems improbable that Hull would use this spelling without authority, or that he would have taken an unusual spelling deliberately. The circumstance that it persisted without change for a period of forty years, when it might easily have been challenged and changed, gives the form considerable weight which can hardly be ignored and one which seems not to have been recognized by historians hitherto.

ORDER OF THE DIES

We have already noted that the obverse dies bearing the Willow Tree type are three in number, and that the spelling MASATHUSETS is common to all three. With our present knowledge, it hardly seems possible to determine the order of these obverse dies convincingly. There are, however, at least two considerations which make the order in which we have presented them reasonable.

In the arrangement of the Oak Tree series which is to be submitted later, the variety which has been selected as the earliest has a tree with formalized roots which are like those on obverse No. 3. Secondly, the sketch which appeared in the margin of the official record, shows these roots separated and somewhat individualized. A like condition will be found with the tree which appears on obverses 1 and 2. No. 1 seems closer to the sketch than No. 2; the shape of the tree on No. 1 is fuller and fills the field

**THE SILVER COINAGE
OF MASSACHUSETTS**

Sydney P. Noe

QUARTERMAN PUBLICATIONS, INC.
Lawrence, Massachusetts

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March 28, 2000

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Eric Newman
6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

Enclosed is a photocopy of page 73 of the Thomas Lechford notebook, with the words "children" and "therefore" in close proximity. I have also enclosed a photocopy of the collection description.

Also, I checked our card catalogs and found that an article on the Massachusetts seal was published in our *Proceedings*. It is Matt B. Jones, "The Early Massachusetts Bay Colony Seals," *PAAS* 44 (1934), 13-44.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas Knoles
Director of Reference Services
and Curator of Manuscripts

tknoles@mwa.org



American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

Name of collection:

Lechford, Thomas, Notebook, 1638-1641

Location:

Folio volumes "L"

Size of collection:

1 folio volume

N.U.C.M.C. #:

RLIN id:

Sources of information on collection:

For biographical information, see *Dictionary of American Biography*, Vol. XI, p. 87; the notebook is published in the *Transactions and Collections of the American Antiquarian Society*, Vol. VIII (1885), 460 p. See accompanying sheet for additional information.

Source of collection:

Gift of Samuel Jennison, 1896

Collection description:

Thomas Lechford (1590?-1644?), the first lawyer in the colony of Massachusetts Bay, arrived in Boston, Mass., on 27 June 1638. In England, he had been a member of Clement's Inn. As an opponent of the episcopacy, he was punished for supporting the cause of William Prynne. He declined a position at the court of Prince Rákóczy of Transylvania and emigrated to New England.

In Massachusetts Bay, Lechford became a controversial figure. The leaders of the colony considered his political and religious views to be heretical; thus, he was not received into church membership and could not vote or hold office in the colony. He was forced to earn a meager living as a copyist and by drafting petty legal documents. In a court case in 1639, Lechford attempted to influence the jury outside of court. For this, he was censured and prohibited from the courts of Massachusetts Bay.

In August 1641, Lechford returned to England and supported the episcopacy and monarchy. He regained his association with Clement's Inn and, in 1642, published Plain Dealing; or, Newes from New England.

Lechford's notebook is a detailed record of every legal document and/or transaction drawn by him while in Boston. He also included accounts of compensation he received for his work. Through these records, legal and political information is revealed concerning seventeenth century New England.

21 June 1976
revised 23 November 1999

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

Thomas Lechford, Notebook, 1638-1641

Studies Focusing on Materials in this Collection

Barnes, Thomas G., "Thomas Lechford and the Earliest Lawyering in Massachusetts, 1638-1641," in *Law in Colonial Massachusetts, 1630-1800*, Boston: The Colonial Society of Massachusetts, 1984, p. 3-38.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Mr. Thomas Knoles
Director of Reference Services
American Antiquarian Society
185 Salisbury St.
Worcester, MA 01609

April 17, 2000

Dear Mr. Knoles:

You have no idea how appreciative I am for your help in the spelling of the name of your beloved state. You located some data I was unaware of.

I sirmize that speling a worde was knot important in them daze az long az the fonetiks was curekt.

If you can locate in Thomas Lechford's manuscript copy book a more readable ch and th preferably used in the middle of a word that would be wonderful. Page 73 with "children" and "therefore" is rather blurred on the photocopy you were kind enough to send me.

The coin legend I conclude was caused by the apprentice die maker not being able to read the copy of the legislation or the copier may not have been able to copy correctly. John Hull was too busy making ship deals and running for public office to get into details.

I'll send you my article in due course before submission for publication. I have not yet decided where to have it published.

Thanks again,

Eric P. Newman

Mr. Thomas Knoles
Director of Reference
American Antiquarian Society
185 Salisbury St.
Worcester, MA 01609

April 20, 2000

Dear Mr. Knoles:

I am now in desperate need of your help in connection with the spelling of Massachusetts in John Hull's Diary.

I find that in the transcription of Hull's Diary published in 1857 AAS Transactions the spelling has been "corrected" except for proper names (see explanation on pp. 18-19). I assume place names are not proper names and thus misspellings have been corrected in the printed text.

Since there are only four uses of the Massachusetts name in the Diaries I wonder if you could make a photocopy of the original manuscript showing how Hull spelled the Massachusetts name.

personal The original Diary as printed runs from p. 141 to 164 (No use of Massachusetts). The public Diary runs from p. 161 to p. 250 (Massachusetts is used only four times by my count):

- p. 167, first line of subheading
- p. 170, line 21
- p. 171, line 20
- p. 176, line 7

Curiously enough Hull misspelled Connecticut ((p. 218, line 18), (p. 222, line 15) and Virginia (p. 236, line 23) with the misspellings apparently not being corrected in the printed transcript as they said it was supposed to be. We seem to have a contradiction.

There is also an assumption that Hull's manuscript Diary has been checked, but I'm not sure of the language on Noe's page 48 (originally p. 34) on Massachusetts coinage which says that an appeal to a distinguished authority at the AAS confirmed the reasonable deduction that the spelling (as to the coinage) is used throughout the Diary. Was it checked or not?

That is another reason why a recheck is much needed.

My appreciation for your cooperation is at a high. You can fully understand my puzzlement.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

AMERICAN · ANTIQUARIAN · SOCIETY

April 27, 2000

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Eric Newman
6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

I did a considerable amount of searching in the Lechford account book. Extensive conservation work was done on the volume about 20 years ago, and the pages have all been reinforced with a polyester tissue. The text is mostly dark and clear, but it is very difficult to get good photocopies. I copied two more pages, which are enclosed.

Also enclosed are the four references to Massachusetts in Hull's diary. You can judge for yourself, but it appears to me that in three of the four instances the word is spelled with a 'th,' and in the fourth with a 'ch.'

Sincerely yours,



Thomas Knoles
Curator of Manuscripts

tknoles@mwa.org



Geoffrey P. Stevens
2 Phillips Dr.
Newburyport, Ma. 01950
June 9, 2000

Eric P. Newman,

Hello Mr. Newman. I hope that all is well with you. In December you had written me in regards to Massachusetts Bay Colony silver. I hope that you received my reply then. You had mentioned your project and article focusing on the contemporaneous Mass. spelling. (MASATHVSETS). I was wondering how you made out?

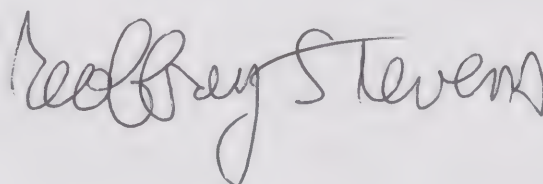
I am very interested in all the aspects of the entire series, however I have been intrigued lately by contemporary counterfeits. I am enclosing a scan of a willow tree threepence which is very interesting in regards to the incused series of "dentils" which point out die clashing and double striking evident on the piece. This coin, owned by my brother Chris, was found along with a small selection of authentic pine trees in Western Connecticut. A metal detector enthusiast discovered them spread across a field over a period of time. He had all of the other pieces, mostly small planchet pines, slabbed by PCGS, and had this one returned by them as a counterfeit, (obviously).

Have you ever seen one like this? Who would go to the trouble in modern times to create this, and not make more? The weight, and metal content are excellent!

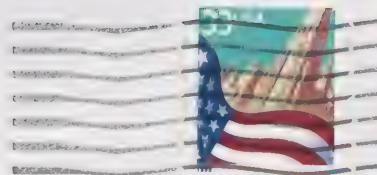
Investigating lately at Saugus Iron Works, which is a national historic park site now, I had some interesting discussions concerning Joseph Jenks. I do not believe that he had anything to do with dies, other than perhaps supplying the actual iron product. I have uncovered evidence, (reference to), of correspondence between John Hull and die cutter(s) from Germany!

Please write back to me if you can find the time, as I would love to hear your opinions on anything. Is there a chance your article will be in the C-4 journal in the near future?

Your numismatic friend,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Geoffrey P. Stevens". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "G" and "S".

GEOFFREY STEVENS
2 PHILLIPS DR.
NEWBURYPORT, MA. 01950



ERIC P. NEWMAN
NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY
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ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63105

63105+2225





I KNOW
THESE
ARE
LOUSY
SCANS,
SORRY.



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Geoffrey P. Stevens
2 Phillips Dr.
Newburyport, MA 01950

June 20, 2000

Your fascinating letter of June 9, 2000 has prompted me to answer forthwith.

The Willow tree 3 pence scans are nice enough to study and I will do so. You did not give me the weight or exact dimensions. There was no reason given by PCGS why they thought it was counterfeit I presume. It may be genuine. I certainly would like to see it. Don't use the word "contemporary" counterfeit, as it is too confusing. Counterfeits for circulation of Pine Trees were made 100 years after their minting. This will be published in the next CNL.

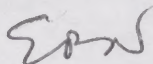
The part about the pieces found by your brother Chris needs much more explanation. How many Pine Trees were found, what varieties, exactly where found, over what period, what weights, whether he still has some, etc. This is important.

You say you have a Hull reference to a German die cutter, but don't tell me what it is. I have a copy of his diary. It is important to follow up on this.

My work on the spelling is resting. I have been immersed in other research but will finish it as soon as I can. I will send you a copy for comments if you want me to. I have to teach colonial numismatics at the ANA this July in Colorado Springs.

Let me hear from you with more detail.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

P.S. Does your brother wish to sell the Willow 3d piece?

Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105
8-14-00

Hello Mr. Newman, I hope that all is well with you. I must apologize for not getting back to you sooner. It has been well over a month since I received your last letter! Sorry.

Did you have a good time in Colorado Springs? I hope so. My Brother Chris and I were in Colorado in late May. We fly fished for a week and had a wonderful time. He and I attended the government auction in Boston on July 28th. The American Congress fugio, (your 1-cc), sold for \$165,000! My brother and I were just thrilled to go and actually hold an NE shilling as well as a willow sixpence. They sold for \$71,000 and \$42,000 respectively. I must assume that you know Anthony Terranova, he had the high bid on the majority of material.

I want to give you an update on my brothers' threepence. The exact weight is 13 grains, and the widest point is approximately 17mm. He does not wish to sell it, but is very interested in your opinion, as am I. In your letter you made it sound as though you thought Chris had found the pieces himself. I must tell you more and clear that up.

A man he knows has found the pieces over many years in a specific plowed farm field in Western Massachusetts. (Not Connecticut), but rather in the Connecticut River valley. This man, who seems very credible, feels that an Indian burial site was disturbed there and has found pieces there over a couple decades including Native American artifacts. The three pieces of Mass. silver which have been authenticated by PCGS, are all common variety Noe 16 small planchets. The rest have been counterfeits, including a NE shilling! He has sold them to different people over the years, and I even know a dealer in Western Mass. who has bought a few pieces from him in the past. I wish I knew more than this and will keep you updated in the future with any info I receive.

I am sending you a copy of the reference to a German die cutter I found. I found this great book at a yard sale years ago. It is "*Builders of The Bay Colony*" by Samuel Eliot Morison published in 1930. Extensive information

on the life of John Hull is included and there is even a plate of coins from the Mass. Historical society. Great reading!

I would love it if you would send me a copy of your work on researching the spelling of MASATHVSETS!! Please do!

Please let me know if there is ever anything I can do for you. I hope to hear from you soon.

Your friend,

Geoffrey Stevens

Geoffrey Stevens

GEOFFREY P. STEVENS
2 PHILLIPS DR.
NEWBURYPORT, MA. 01950

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Geoffrey P. Stevens
2 Phillips Dr.
Newburyport, MA 01950

August 21, 2000

Dear Mr. Stevens:

Your interesting letter of August 14, 2000 stirs me to answer you promptly.

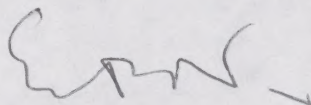
I know Tony Terranova well and am glad he bought some of the items confiscated by the government from a RICO violator. Your letter sounds like you and your brother sold a NE shilling and a Willow 6d but I believe this was government property. Please straighten me out.

How many counterfeit pieces have been sold by this central Massachusetts man? To who has he sold them? You may know that I wrote a book on Massachusetts silver counterfeits called The Secret of the Good Samaritan Shilling. I still gather data on those forgeries and counterfeits.

Please send me additional photocopies of pages from your Samuel Morrison book which relate to Massachusetts coinage. You only sent p. 152 and 153. The failure to identify willow tree coinage on the pictures was Morrison's fault as Crosby identified them in 1875. I will appreciate those pages and also a photocopy of the title page. You asked if you could do anything for me.

I am not far enough along to send you the article I am writing but will keep that in mind.

Thanks for being so informative,



Eric P. Newman